

Assembly Bill No. 2520

CHAPTER 347

An act to amend Section 19596.1 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to horse racing, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 2012. Filed with
Secretary of State September 17, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2520, Hall. Horse racing: harness or quarter horses.

Under existing law, the California Board of Horse Racing may authorize a harness or quarter horse association conducting a horse race to accept wagers on the results of out-of-state, out-of-country, and other designated harness or quarter horse races, if specified conditions are met, including that the association conducts at least 7 live races and imports not more than 8 races on live racing days.

This bill would revise that provision to instead permit the association to import not more than 10 races on live racing days.

Under existing law, revenues distributed to the state from horse racing are required to be deposited in the Fair and Exposition Fund and, unless otherwise appropriated are continuously appropriated to the Secretary of Food and Agriculture for various regulatory and general governmental purposes. By providing for the importation of additional out-of-state and out-of-country races, this bill would authorize additional wagering, and would increase the amount of continuously appropriated license fees, thereby making an appropriation.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 19596.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

19596.1. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may authorize a harness or quarter horse association conducting a race meeting to accept wagers on the results of out-of-state or out-of-country harness or quarter horse races and, with the board's approval and with the concurrence of the horsemen's organization contracting with the association, other designated harness or quarter horse races during the period it is conducting the racing meeting, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The authorization complies with federal laws, including, but not limited to, Chapter 57 (commencing with Section 3001) of Title 15 of the United States Code.

(2) Wagering is offered only within the racing inclosure and only within 36 hours of the running of the out-of-state feature race.

(3) The association conducts at least seven live races, and imports not more than 10 races on those days during a racing meeting when live races are being run, except as provided in subdivision (b).

(4) If only one breed of horse specified in this section is being raced on a given day, then the association conducting the live racing may import those races which would otherwise be simulcast by the association which is not racing. After the usual deductions, including the portion for the racing association, the portion remaining for purses from these races shall be distributed equally for purses for harness horsemen and quarter horse horsemen.

(5) No quarter horse or harness racing association shall accept wagers on out-of-state or out-of-country quarter horse or harness races commencing before 5:30 p.m., Pacific standard time, without the consent of any thoroughbred association or fair that is then conducting a live racing meeting in this state.

(b) An association that is authorized to import races pursuant to subdivision (a) may, at its sole discretion, import fewer than the maximum number of harness or quarter horse races authorized in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a). For up to two races per night, for each race that is not imported under the maximum authorized by paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) on a particular night of racing, the association may add a race to the number of races allowable under the maximum authorization on another night of racing. However, no more than two races may be added under this subdivision to the number allowable on a single night, and the total number of imported races over a calendar year may not exceed the total number of imported races authorized pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a).